TOP OF THE HILL

Montgomery Bell Academy 4001 Harding Road, Nashville, TN 37205
30 May 2017 Vol. XXII, No. 4

Atlanta Enjoyed By All!

By Andrew Bulgarino

The 8th Grade's trip to Atlanta is beyond doubt the best class trip that MBA students experience. This year, the Class of 2021 traveled to Atlanta for three days of non-stop fun. The adventure started on April 20, which coincided with Founders' Day for MBA. Since this day is a major celebration for all students, the 8th graders were not able to make the usual departure time of 7:30 a.m. Instead, they left after watching the traditional Founders' Day Race dedicated to Van Webb, an MBA alumnus from the class of 2000. Senior Andrew Hudson claimed the victory. After the thrilling race, the 8th grade class quickly rushed to the buses to depart. After arriving at the Fairfield Inn and Suites, there was only enough time to drop off bags and get right back on the buses to go to the Atlanta Braves game. The Braves faced off against the Washington Nationals in an intense game that ended in a Braves' defeat with a score of 3-2. One thing that made the game even more fun for MBA students was that R.A. Dickey, an MBA alumnus, pitched for the Braves. The game was a great experience, despite the excessive number of funnel cakes consumed by many students. After returning to the hotel and going to sleep, the evening's slumber came to an unexpected end with a fire alarm at 6:00 a.m., which was later discovered to be caused by burnt food in the kitchen. This abrupt start to the day by no means ruined it, as students departed for their next activity: Paintball. This event started with two separate games and a total of four different teams, but the final games of capture the flag divided the grade into only two teams. In between the games, students recharged by filling up on pizza from Papa John's and various soft drinks. The day ended with a giant game of capture the flag. One team had the advantage of Mr. Simpson on their side, but surprisingly, they ended up losing. After paintball, students traveled back to the hotel to clean up before the next event, which was the exciting Andretti World. It was a massive arcade, with many games and activities, such as go-karts, laser tag, and a cool virtual reality game. The teachers let students play the games of their choice for about three hours, and even though the game cards did not actually collect tickets, the games and go-karts were quite fun. Andretti World served as an enjoyable and relaxing cool-down from paintball. That night was uninterrupted, and most students slept well in anticipation of Six Flags, one of the most enjoyable activities on the trip. When students awoke, they quickly packed their bags, ate breakfast, and loaded the buses. The students arrived before the full park actually opened, so they waited anxiously in front of the gates for about 10 minutes, ready to sprint to all of the roller coasters before lines piled up. Everyone split into groups, although most groups went on similar rides. Nearly everyone went on the Superman roller coaster, which actually tilted people horizontally to fly like Superman. The Goliath was another popular ride, as well as the Drop of Doom, with a virtual reality feature. The day at Six Flags was short, and it felt like it went too fast. Some students probably skipped lunch so they could go on more rides. Students got back to the buses at 2:00 p.m. for some class pictures, and anyone who was late faced the wrath of Coach Euverard and the threat of his grueling workouts. The bus ride back to MBA was uneventful, as most were exhausted from a full day at Six Flags. Students arrived back in Nashville to rain and clouds, but it still felt good to be home.

Overall, the Atlanta trip was full of exciting activities that made special memories for all of the 8th grade students.

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ATLANTA

Paintball

By Kyle Tavi

Out of the many exhilarating activities experienced in Atlanta, all of them were extremely fun and engaging. However, only one stood out as the best. This activity was paintball, the perfect activity that allows MBA boys to shoot one another. MBA obviously recognized this fact in order to add it to the list of activities in Atlanta.

Yes, that is Nasir Cook!

When the MBA buses arrived at Paintball Atlanta, the first ten minutes or so were spent hanging around talking and crushing old paintballs. After that, everyone was instructed to form a line in alphabetical order. Although the line took awhile to move, each player finally made it through and received a gun, a mask, and a bag of paintballs. We then assembled for a brief speech on paintball rules and safety. After that, we donned our equipment, and we were off. We divided into two groups: Bands and no bands. Then those groups were furthermore divided, and we played.

The first map we played consisted of a castle and many other small forts and metal obstacles. My group started in the castle, and most remained until they were shot or the game ended. This strategy was pursued, despite the valiant efforts of Bode Segers to advance. The strategy proved ineffectual, as the other team ended up so close to the castle that they could easily shoot the people in the castle.

In the second round, we played on a field with trees, wooden obstacles, and wheels. This time, we spread out more and advanced. However, a problem on our side was that some of the protection was too much. People swamped one or two large barriers, leaving no space. I regret doing the same, as I was accidentally forced outside of the barrier and was shot in the chest. We lost that round and then went off to play the third round.

The third and fourth rounds were played in a forest. This was the best map of all, because it included two large bases, lots of trees, strange and innovative barriers, and, best of all, a trench. This round required a lot of strategy, which included sending people through the tall grass on one side, and the valley on the other. A lot of people were in the base, which provided great cover and maximum view of the downhill area. Though this was a larger map, the battle was still extremely competitive. The third and fourth round created the most memories. A garden snake had snuck up into our base, and a referee used our paintball guns to kill it by shooting it multiple times. However, my personal favorite was the sight of Stanford Thombs charging the enemy base. Needless to say, he got shot. A lot.

Overall, paintball was the highlight of my trip. It was extremely fun, and provided a great way to bond with my class.

ATLANTA

The Braves Game

By Bo Wilbanks

To follow tradition, the MBA 8th graders went to an Atlanta Braves game on their annual trip to Atlanta. This year, however, the new SunTrust Park was open, which added to the excitement of the game. This game was the second one ever played at SunTrust Park. Another added bonus was that MBA alum R.A Dickey was pitching for the Braves. After a long drive from Nashville, the 8th graders were eager to get to the game where they could relax and enjoy themselves. When we first arrived at the game, the stadium stood out immediately. We then entered the mighty stadium and settled down in our seats, which were spectacular (although there is not a bad seat in the house). Then we were free to go and roam until the 7th inning. I first explored the stadium before the game started and was extremely impressed with the tremendous amount of activities and food options. One feature eat is the Pizza Burger, which is a burger that's buns are pizzas. This is just one of the spectacular feature food options, but most people got Chick-fil-a because it was right next to our seats. When the game finally started, we settled in to enjoy the Braves take on the Washington Nationals. The Nationals sent out star pitcher Stephen Strasburg to take on the Braves lineup. R.A. Dickey had a strong night and shut down the powerful Nationals lineup for most of the game until slugger Ryan Zimmerman came to the plate in the sixth inning and smacked a two-run bomb to centerfield to put the Nats up 3-2. Though the Braves threatened in the bottom of the ninth, the Nats would go on to win by that score. After the game, the students went to the parking lot to load up the buses. This time was a good opportunity for some to interact with fellow fans who had attended the game as well. This interaction truly tested the gentleman on both their manners and politeness, which are always good things. However, most of us were just excited that the Predators beat the Blackhawks in game 4 to win the series minutes after the Braves game. This made up for the tough loss.

Overall, the game was a blast and even though the Braves did not win, it was a nice moment for us to get outside and enjoy quality time with our friends.

ATLANTA

Andretti World

By Thomas McRae

Blistered from the intensity of paintball, 120 hungry, adolescent 13-15 year old boys walked into a strobe light war zone called Andretti World. I can only imagine how intimidated the 5-6 staff members were, but they served us well! And in exchange we gave them our best pleases and thank yous (as well as the bill). First, we were ushered into a large room with food in a buffet style. I now have the belief that sliders, nachos, and sweet tea might be the key factor to world peace. Once we were all happy and content with the food in our stomach, the 8th grade class stormed the game area. The endless game cards let the fun environment last all night (thank you Mrs. Stewart). Andretti World had many amazing games like virtual skiing. This game was like the normal motorcycle game where you sit on the bike, but instead you stood on mobile skis and viewed a high quality HD screen. Skii Ball became the base camp for the Big Red. Tense games between Lucien Brunetti and Will Coulthard gradually grew in stakes and in vocal level. The Luke and Brody tag team was unstoppable on the clown game,

Also, an ample selection of shoot-em-up games lured gamers from all parts of the floor. Laser tag was unbelievably fun. There is nothing better than running next to all your friends, possibly carrying another friend on your shoulders, sniping your peers who are temporarily your foes. Common phrases to yell pre- and post-kill were: "Kodak!," "360 no scope," and "MELEE KILL." But all other activities aside, Go-Karting was the best. The hype was built up, gentleman' bets were made, and the checkered flag went down. In one race, Jackson Pickett T-Boned Jack Flanagan out of his first place lead. Sadly, I must admit that I got a humble second. There were many races that went on with some high-tech go-karts, and it really brought out the competitive side of all the boys. Overall, Andretti World was a great experience for the entire class.

I cannot thank Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Simpson, and everyone else who made this possible and for giving us the chance to go to Andretti World and Atlanta as a whole.

ATLANTA

Six Flags Over Georgia

By Don Pierce

Essentially, there are two ways to go to an amusement park: One, you can relax while you walk through the park and just talk, maybe go on a couple of rides. Or two, you can go on every ride till you just feel the adrenaline all the time. Most of the 8th graders decided on the second option and rode the Goliath, the Superman, and the Cyclone many times. The Goliath is the fastest ride at Six Flags, and it

also the highest, beating even the drop ride, Drop of Doom. When you are climbing, you have a moment of regret where you ask yourself, "Why did I get on this ride?" Then you think of all the possible ways things can go wrong. "What if this snaps," "What if my seatbelt comes undone," and " What if I fall out" are common thoughts passing through your head. On the final few feet, you look down to see the breathtaking view. Then the drop happens. Adrenaline rushes through your body, and it is amazing for the rest of the ride.

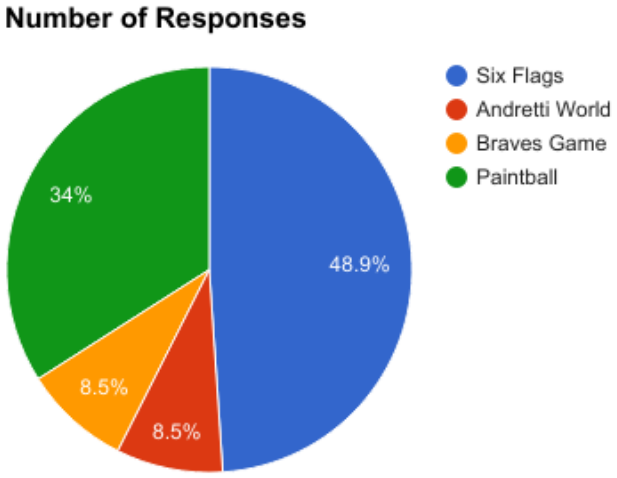
During the Cyclone, you are on what seems to be a rickety old ride made out of wood. It actually is an old ride, so for the first couple of seconds that it is screeching, it is terrifying, but you get desensitized to it. You start to climb the slope, saying to your friend, "I thought you said this was fast." When you start to go down the slope, you can, for a moment, see the rest of the park. After going through what feels like twenty more slopes, you are done and hear that familiar screeching that you started with.

The Superman is a special experience in the front of the ride, but everywhere else, it is still amazing, watching what is below you while listening to the screams of other people. If you are in the front, you feel like Superman himself, flying through the air horizontally and feeling like you are in power as you fly above the park.

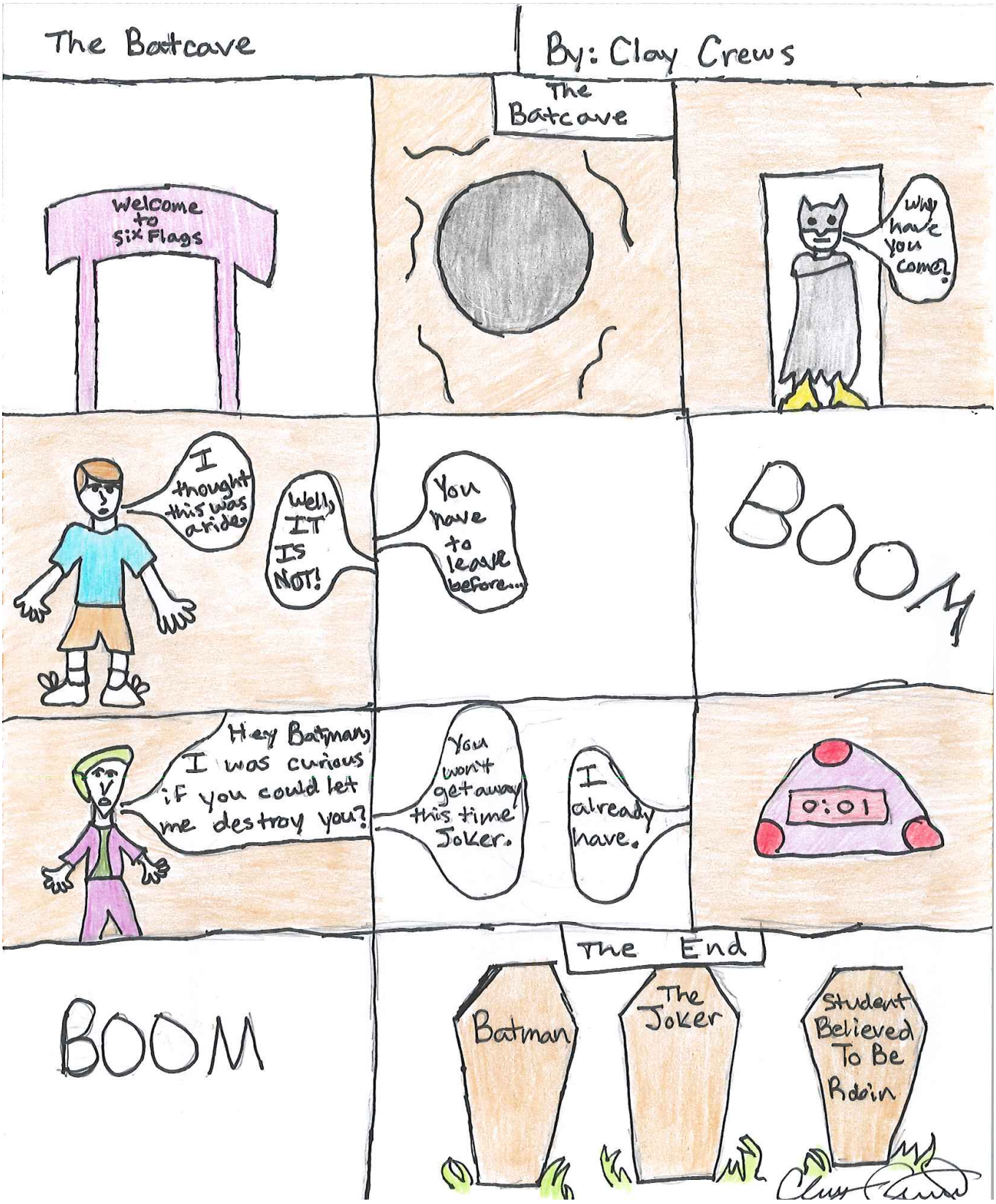
Six Flags can be different for everyone, but in the end, I am sure that everyone felt like the time was too short. It was a great way to end the Atlanta trip.

Student poll reveals Six Flags to be the students' favorite Atlanta trip experience.

Poll courtesy of Andrew Bulgarino



ATLANTA


The Batcave
By: Clay Crews
Welcome to Six Flags
The Batcave
Why have you come?
I thought this was a ride.
Well, IT IS NOT!
You have to leave before...
BOOM
Hey Batman, I was curious if you could let me destroy you?
You won't get away this time Joker.
I already have.
0:01
BOOM
The End
Batman
The Joker
Student Believed To Be Robin

Ethan Lilly

Jack Keller

Sam Elasy

Thomas Peterson

Junior School Tradition Continues with Eleventh Annual Recitation Competition

By Thomas Peterson

This year's Junior School Poetry Competition was one of the best ever. According to Mrs. Roberts, the faculty sponsor of the competition, each round had some of the closet scores in history. Seventh grade students recited the poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling, and eighth grade students performed "Marc Antony's Funeral Speech" from William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. Kipling wrote "If" for his son, John Kipling, to encourage him to grow in virtue and common sense. In Julius Caesar, Shakespeare used powerful words to allow Marc Antony to persuade a throng of hostile Romans of Caesar's virtue and the need for revenge against the co-conspirators who plotted Caesar's death. The competition kicked off with students reciting these poems in their English classes for a grade. Students with the highest grade in their class moved on to the semifinals to perform in front of four judges. This year, students' recitations were so good that some English teachers sent more than one student from each class to the semi-final round. In all, a whopping 23 seventh and eighth graders performed in the semi-final round, and the performances were all exceptional. The top two students from each grade were then selected to advance to the final round. After an extremely close vote, the final four were set. Seventh graders Sam Elasy and Jack Keller, and eighth graders Ethan Lily and, yours truly, Thomas Peterson, were selected to perform in the finals. They performed their poetry recitations in the Dead Poets Society Room on April 19 for money and prizes before their fellow Junior School students and faculty members. All four recitations were recorded and posted on the MBA website. At the end of the competition, Mrs. Roberts announced the winners: I and Ethan Lilly took first and second place respectively, with Sam Elasy and Jack Keller as runner-ups.

MBA Mathcounts

By Sam Meacham

After nearly two years of immersive practice and preparation, the MBA Mathcounts team has finally ended its long season in splendid fashion. As everyone knows, Mrs. Qian is the winningest coach in MBA history, and she held onto that title by winning her 10th Tennessee state title this year. After participating in Mathcounts for two weeks in the summer, three lunches per week, as well as after school for the Winter II season, the team felt ready for the city competition. Ten students attended the competition: six eighth graders and four seventh graders. The team was somewhat nervous before the competition, for there were several strong teams from other schools in Nashville, but the competition went spectacularly well for MBA. The team won first in the city by a wide margin, and had eighth graders Colin Tang, Patrick Pergande, and Andrew Bulgarino place 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively in the individual category. Colin finished with an amazing perfect score of 46. Ashwin Jain and Sam Meacham also placed in the top 10 and qualified for state. Although no seventh graders qualified for state, the competition provided valuable experience for them, as they will be the leaders of the team next year.

Despite this seemingly easy win in the city competition, the advancing team members knew full well that the state contest would be much tougher. The team trained hard during lunch almost every day and went to four-hour practices on four Saturdays during the six weeks leading up to State on March 18. Although the work was grueling, the team knew that it was absolutely necessary for a win at State. Finally, the day of the competition came. After the two individual rounds and the collaborative team round, the team members felt they had done their best as they anxiously awaited the Countdown Round. This round is similar to a quiz bowl, in which two competitors go head-to-head in a verbal competition. The team breathed a collective sigh of relief when two MBA team members, Colin Tang and Sam Meacham, were announced as participants in the Countdown Round. The Countdown Round went very well for the MBA team, as Colin Tang advanced to the second round and finished 4th out of eight, while Sam Meacham lost a close battle in the final round to receive 2nd. As the team results were finally announced, everyone anxiously held their breath. When the judges proclaimed MBA as the state champions, the team finally exhaled. Two years of hard work had paid off! In the individual competition, Colin Tang won 4th and advanced to the national competition as part of the Tennessee state team, which will be coached by none other than Mrs. Qian. The team later discovered that they had only won the contest by 1.75 points, and would have lost without some skill on a certain, very difficult team round problem.

Mrs. Qian led the team to their 15th city title and 10th state title. The outlook is good for next year, as 7th grade stars Adam Wang and Bill Ouyang are strong competitors, who are constantly improving their skills. Additionally, there are other strong seventh-grade students who are working hard to keep Mrs. Qian's winning streak alive.

MathCounts MBA Team
Febuary 4, 2017

Up and Atom

By Mauro Mastrapasqua

This year's Science Olympiad was one to be remembered for years to come. With returning head coach Dr. Creamer, along with returning Coach Armstrong and Coach Hannon, who also moved up to Division C (High School) this year, the team was packed solid with talent and high expectations. Science Olympiad consists of 30 events per year, at which competitors must study or pre-build a machine. After months of rigorous preparation, the team tested their knowledge and skill at the invitational competition, a big competition solely for the purpose of testing machines in a competition environment. The invitational was held at Friendship Christian School in Lebanon with teams from no specific region. When March came, the team headed to TSU for the regional competition. MBA's A team placed first overall, earning a ticket to UT for the state competition.

During Spring Break, the Big Red buses traveled to Knoxville for the state competition. Bright and early the next day, the team rallied and competed all day. MBA ended up taking home seventh place. Though it doesn't sound like much improvement from the team's 8th place showing last year, the team was by far more prepared this year and were within few points of higher place teams with whom MBA was not even close to beating last year.

As for specific events, MBA had an impressive amount of overall improvement. Returning ninth grader John Raulston Graham and new eighth grader Sam Meacham took charge in one of the most difficult events on the list, Crime Busters. This event is crime scene analysis and forensics (studying hair fibers, powders, liquids, DNA, etc.). Though he could not attend the state competition, Luke Morad was an impressive contributor to the team. Jason Zhu and Adam Wang ran his pre-built hovercraft, and he trained Connor Steanson and Mauro Mastrapasqua for Optics, a written optics test in which participants must arrange a series of mirrors to hit a dot when a laser is shined on the first on, but before the laser is turned on. Taking home first place, Sam Meacham and Zach Brown competed in the event Road Scholar, relating to maps and cartography. Wyatt Bettis and, again, Sam Meacham took home a win for Food Science, in which they built a calorimeter out of a soda can. Although not a first place win, Mauro Mastrapasqua's Rube Goldberg Machine placed 6th at state after three months of rebuilding, testing, and rebuilding again. Though this year's team didn't come out on top in score, the team's effort and improvement were first rate.

The 2017 Science Olympiad Team

Classics Club

By Andrew Bulgarino

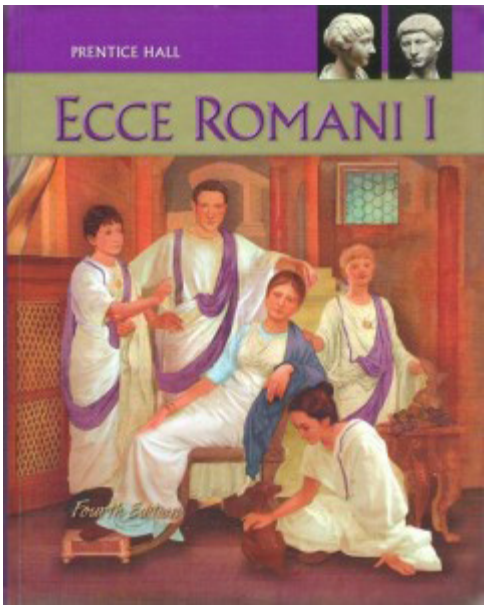
The Junior School Members of the Big Red Classics Club

The Big Red Classics Club had an extremely successful season. The team that went to the regional/mid-state competition this year consisted of seven eighth-graders, one freshman, six sophomores, eight juniors, and three seniors. Under the leadership of head coach Ms. Sarah Ellery and senior Cole Thornton, the team traveled down the road to Hume Fogg High School to compete at mid-state. The competition was composed of ten academic tests, with topics such as Latin Grammar, Vocabulary, Derivatives, Roman Life, Roman History, Mythology, Reading Comprehension, Latin Literature, and Heptathlon (a test with 10 questions from each of the other topics). Academic rigor was not the only thing on the schedule; however, the day also featured events like art, a costume contest, an essay contest, and a poetry contest. The best part of the competition was Certamen, a head-to-head showdown between four members of two schools. There were divisions for each level of Latin. The Latin I team consisted of members Jed Neal, Matthew Milam, Mauro Mastrapasqua, and Andrew Bulgarino. The team took 3rd place at the mid-state competition. Other places at the mid-state competition included 1st in Latin V Derivatives (Luke Rochford), 2nd in Latin II Grammar (Zach Brown), 2nd in Latin IV Mythology (Alex Bulgarino), 2nd in Latin III Literature (Cameron Jacobson), and a 3rd-1st sweep in Latin I Grammar (Jed Neal, Matthew Milam, and Andrew Bulgarino, respectively). It was a successful outing, to say the least. For the state competition, the team traveled to Austin Peay State University on April 7. This competition consisted of the same testing categories as mid-state, as well as some of the art events. The highlight of the day was, again, Certamen. The same Latin I team that represented MBA at mid-state was unaware that they would have to stay until 7:30 p.m. for the finals of state. Ultimately, the team finished 2nd in the state, an incredible accomplishment. The academic testing scores included 2nd place in Roman History (Zach Brown), 2nd place in Latin I Vocabulary (Andrew Bulgarino), 2nd place in Latin Literature (Elliot Nahmias), 3rd place in Mixed Media (Ashton Terrell), and 1st place in Latin Grammar I (Andrew Bulgarino).

Overall, it was a very successful season for the Classics Club, and special gratitude to Ms. Ellery for organizing the team and helping them throughout the season.

Ode to *Ecce Romani I*

By Wyatt Bettis



Ecce Romani I is both the worst and the best thing ever to happen to the Junior School Latin Classes. Before the ground below me is split between those fervently against the textbook and those for it, I would like to justify my statement. Let's start with the bad part. *Ecce* is simply boring, let's face it. Essentially, only three things happen: They get the letter from the emperor, go to Rome (this includes being stuck in a ditch for seven chapters), and see the city. BUT there is so much more when you look under the surface. Imagine if all Latin were intensely looking at charts and passages without a story. Don't say you didn't freak out when Cornelia roasted Sextus like a marshmallow coated in gasoline in chapter sixteen, or get super riled up when a chapter was called "Murder." *Ecce Romani I* has been at MBA for a long time (or "*diu*" rather for all you Latin scholars out there), and you've probably had a teacher here who has learned Latin from it. In fact, an MBA teacher even helped write it. Future eighth graders will never get to experience the legends of Davus, Geta, or Flavia (unconfirmed reports say she returns). The new replacement will be a book called *Latin for the New Millennium*. There is a hope by the rising freshman that this new edition will be tedious, punishing, more mind-numbing, and generally harder than *Ecce*, because it will take a lot to overcome the legacy of the ditch-dwelling Cornelii. We will miss you, *Ecce Romani*… Or in other words, *"dēsīderimus tē, Ecce Rōmānī!"*

Endada 2017

By William Rogers

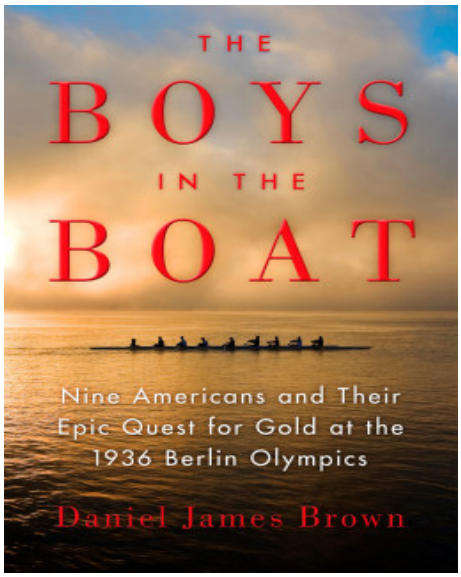
Endada is an arts festival that has been a tradition for seven years at MBA. This year celebrated MBA's 150th birthday with great music, tasty food, and awesome activities.

Food trucks such as Bajo Sexto, the Grilled Cheeserie, and Jeni's Ice Cream added to the fun with their delicious food and desserts. Other excellent food at Endada included the Sam Widges shop, led by Mr. Morrison, whose delicious sandwiches were made for Endada attendees, along with Mr. Paolicchi's famous root beer floats, a homemade lemonade stand, and delicious burgers from MBA's own Grill and Chill Club. Everyone who volunteered in the food stands and in the food trucks helped make Endada even more special.

The music this year was also outstanding. Bands such as The Will Trotman Band, The Grumble Bunch, Avitas, The Zooboomafoos, The Gravy Train, and The Second Planet all lent a party vibe to the Endada festivities.

The booths this year offered diverse activities that brought kids and adults together. The community mural, in which participants paint an enormous piece of modern art, was a major draw for attendees and a big success. The henna and face painting tents were extremely fun. Hip Hues was another tent that performed screen printing on t-shirts. Student artists at Endada included Thomas Bellet, who proffered different wooden bowls and cutting boards, Tim Buchanan, who sold customized shoes, Tanner Noonan, who sold his wood art, and John Glover, who gave attendees Henna tattoos. The day was rounded out by a performance from the Chinese Artists Alliance of Nashville, along with offerings from Parnassus on Wheels, Hatch Show Print, and the Country Music Hall of Fame, which featured an instrument petting zoo. Endada was a great success this year, and we are excited for what the future of Endada will bring.

The All-School Read for Fall 2017



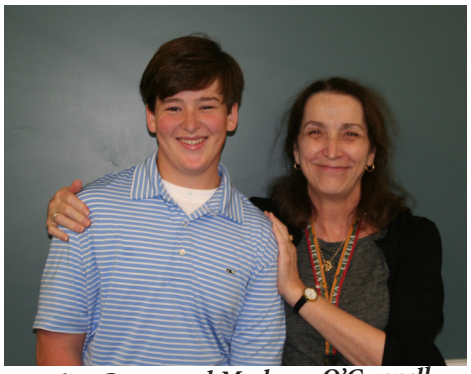
The Boys in the Boat

By
Daniel James Brown

We Bid a Fond Farewell

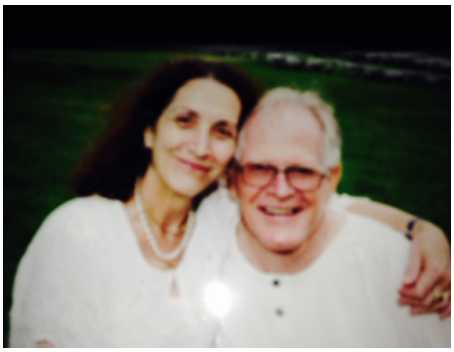
Au Revoir, Madame O'Connell!

By Clay Crews

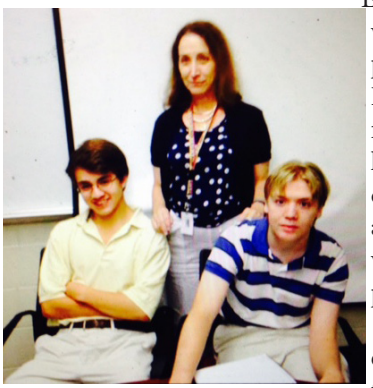


Clay Crews and Madame O'Connell

Mrs. O'Connell has amassed many memories during her time at MBA. Many of her favorites relate to students that she has enjoyed getting to know. She also looks back fondly on her time teaching both of her sons, Freddie ('95) and Sam ('98) . This special time allowed her sons to see her not only as their mom, but as a wonderful teacher. Since Mrs. O'Connell is half Lithuanian, another one of her favorite memories is going on a MBA/Harpeth Hall trip to Lithuania accompanied by her husband. Last but not least, Mrs. O'Connell also loved her time as a faculty advisor on the Honor Council. She says that working with smart, thoughtful, and dedicated young men inspired her. During her long tenure at MBA, Mrs. O'Connell has observed strong relationships develop that can last a lifetime. She has enjoyed seeing the bonds between faculty and students, and even watching friendships develop between the children of her former students.

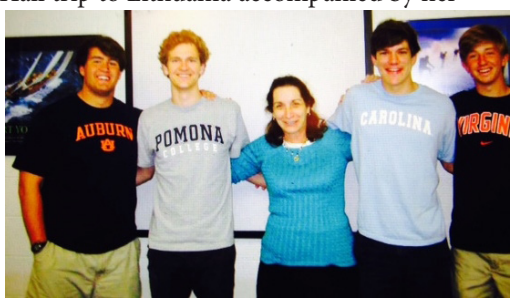


Mr. and Mrs. Tim O'Connell



Mrs. O'Connell with her last advisees: Diego Martinez and Davidson Frith

When asked which part of MBA's motto "Gentlemen, Scholar, Athlete" she liked best, Mrs. O'Connell said that she likes them in the order in which they currently exist: gentlemen, scholar, then athlete. If Mrs. O'Connell had to add a word to the motto, it would be "Artist" because she has watched MBA's theatrical, instrumental, vocal, and other artistic talents grow throughout her time at MBA. As an MBA teacher, Mrs. O'Connell has taught French, Spanish, and Grammar. She said her favorite language to teach was French, because it is a beautiful language and she has French relatives.



Madame O'Connell with her 2013 senior advisees

If Mrs. O'Connell had one word to describe her time at MBA, it would be "fulfilling." Mrs. O'Connell said that two of the most influential people she met while she was at MBA were Mrs. June Bowen and Mrs. Virginia Hollins, because they were "strong, smart, witty, and caring," and she learned a tremendous amount from them. If she had to give a message to every MBA student she would say, "Try many activities at MBA because your time flies by too quickly, and do everything the school encourages you to do."

Her favorite spots on campus are her classrooms in both the new and the old Carter Buildings, the library, and the theater, although she thinks the entire campus is beautiful.

A book that Mrs. O'Connell believes every MBA student should read is *Le Petit Prince*, because of its influential life lessons.

Even though Mrs. O'Connell won't be at MBA everyday, she plans to come back and visit. In retirement, she is looking forward to being able to see her family whenever she wants, contending with fewer deadlines, and being able to read a book without falling asleep after a few pages.

While MBA is losing one of its very best teachers, the ways Mrs. O'Connell has affected MBA will continue to impact the school well into the future. Because Mrs. O'Connell has taught at MBA for so many years, she has formed lasting friendships, and she leaves behind a legacy as an outstanding teacher who inspired her students to learn well, study hard, and treat others kindly. Thank you, Mrs. O'Connell!

Mrs. O'Connell's next adventure--more time with her grandchildren. L - R -Solomon, Halley, and Matilda. Not pictured, new baby Violet Rose

to Two Treasured Teachers

Many Thanks, Coach Brown!

By Scott Wallace

Since August 2016, every one of my school days has started out in the Massey Building, on the 2nd floor in the 24th room. This room belongs to Mr. David Brown, who has brought energy and wisdom to every class he teaches at MBA. This year, my fellow advisory members and I have waited in the hallway until about 7:15 a.m. each morning for Mr. Brown to open the classroom door. When Mr. Brown walks down the hallway, we all wait for the anticipated greeting. "Ayeooooooooo," he says. We all then respond with another "Ayeooooooooo!" After the lively greeting, everyone comes in, sits down, draws on the chalkboard, or talks until about 7:55 in the morning. At 7:55, Mr. Brown begins to read the announcements off his computer while everyone listens. After announcements, Mr. Brown turns on the projector and opens up a power point, and we take notes. Now, notes may not sound exciting, but in Mr. Brown's class they sure are. Just when you might begin to get bored during note-taking, Mr. Brown turns on an audio clip to which many students dance. He also shows many movies to help explain the main ideas of the area of the world he is teaching about, or a major event that we are studying. Mr. Brown has taught with a passion for the success of his students, and with energy and wisdom that makes for a better learning environment. For that, we are grateful. Now, let's learn about this distinguished member of our faculty.

Mr. Brown attended both Lipscomb University and Austin Peay University. He has been at MBA since 1996. He teaches U.S. History and Cultural Geography, and he coaches football. He decided to retire now because he says he has been in school for more than 60 years, counting his own time as a student. He has grandchildren with whom he wants to spend time. In addition, Mr. Brown plans on spending more time with his mother, enjoying hobbies such as woodworking and time in his yard, as well as travel. His favorite moments from MBA have been the seven state championships, as well as working with great teachers and students. One piece of advice Mr. Brown has to offer to the students is to believe in something bigger than yourself and appreciate the sacrifices your parents make for you. When I asked Mr. Brown what he wished he could change at MBA, he said he wished that the school had a few more late openings. No wonder he is such a beloved teacher. Mr. Brown also confirmed that he will be staying in the Middle Tennessee area and not moving to a retirement home in Florida to play golf and cards, despite some rumors to the contrary. His favorite time period to teach in U.S. History is the Civil War, and he enjoys teaching all the different Latin American cultures in Geography class. Last, but certainly not least, Mr. Brown predicts that the Titans will win the Super Bowl this year. That is quite a bold projection.

On behalf of the many students that have been privileged to be in your classroom every day, we thank you Mr. Brown, for your enthusiasm, knowledge, and sincere desire to help us become better gentlemen and people as we continue our education at MBA.

Coach Brown in his favorite role as father and grandfather

PREDICTIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2021

Kendrick Abernathy - Most likely to wear his MBA Football sweatshirt all summer
Rex Allsep - Assistant to the Assistant to the Assistant Manager
Eman Barrett - President of the US
Sam Bartholomew - Most likely to be the voice of Caillou
Frank Bass - Most likely to become America's Next Top Men's Model
Maxwell Battle - Olympic Athlete
Braden Beach - Professional Impressionist
Joseph Bellardo - Next Coach Brock
Ian Bernatavitz - Most likely to turn any shoe into a slipper
Wyatt Bettis - Next Mr. Spiegl
Will Bostelman - Most likely to retire before the age of 35
Parker Bowling - Most likely to meet his wife over *Roblox*
Will Brown - Next Judge Judy
Will Brownie - Most likely to crash his Ferrari on his 16th birthday
Lucien Brunetti - Most likely to turn the lost and found into a profitable business
Andrew Bulgarino - Most likely to be disappointed from getting a 1559 on the SAT
Lucas Cashwell - Most likely to sell sound FX keyboards
Tripp Chamblin - Most likely to never learn how to swim
William Clark - Most likely to lead groups up the Andes Mountains in Chile
Nasir Cook - World's richest man because of *Fanduel*
Ramsay Cole - Die hard Alabama fan
Will Coulthard - Most likely to open a Cookout restaurant in his backyard
Clay Crawford - Die hard Duke fan
John Crawford - Most likely to play *Phantom Forces* in 5 years when no one else is playing
Clay Crews - Most likely to be stranded on Castaway Cay
Breckenridge Curnutte - Singer/ songwriter
Max Dillon - 25th String QB
Foster Edwards - CEO of Bass Pro Shops
Jack Edwards - Most likely to be an NFL manager
Jack Flanagan - Most likely to get his phone permanently confiscated by Mr. Kesor
Swope Fleming - Pro fly fisherman
Matthew Fox - Professional everything
Sebastian Garcia -Most likely to dedicate his life to finding out why the chicken crossed the road
Adam Garfinkel - Most likely to become the next Olympic Wrestling Champion
Jack Gauldin - Game show host
Dan Gaw - Most likely to have a better life in *Minecraft*
Max Giorgio - Most likely to be an inhabitant of Mongolia
Peyton Green - Most likely to go to Six Flags Atlanta again and win all of the jerseys
Warner Greene - Most likely to purchase Mayfield for the Brown Cows
Colyer Haddock - Most likely to get insurance for his hair
Charlie Hansen - Most likely to be the polar opposite of his brother
Ty Harden - Manager of the Predators
Ben Harris - Most likely to make Chinese the official language in the US
Zak Herbstreit- Flow god
Will Huizinga - Most likely to change his last name to HIIIIIzinga
Lloyd Ivester - Tech Deck CEO
Luke Jackson - Most likely to be mistaken for Sid the Sloth
Ashwin Jain - Ken Ken specialist
Eli Kampine - Most likely to have the same haircut for the rest of his life
James Kinard- Professional dancer
Turner Kirkland - Fly fishing guide
David Koziak- Most likely to own an Emerald mine
Quinn Kunath- MLS Soccer bust
Trent Lamar - Most likely to start "Senior Slide" Freshman year
Dustin Lee - Most likely to break his arm from raising his hand too much in Spiegl
Kinton Lewis - Most likely to fill out the job application during the interview
Ethan Lilly - inventor of protein lettuce (with toppings)
Buchanan Lindsey - Most likely to create a meme that lasts a month
Ben Locke - How many locker locks could Ben Locke lock if Ben Locke could lock locker locks?
Lee Loving - Most likely to shop black market for compasses
Bennett MacCurdy - Most likely to quadruple check his job application
Mario Mansour - Egyptian Archaeologist
Charlie Mason - Most likely to get hair extensions
Mauro Mastrapasqua- Most likely to make another recreation of *The Office*
Joseph McDugald - Most likely to sunburn in the Winter
Flynn McRae - Most likely to mistake a banana for an apple
Thomas McRae - Orvis model
Sam Meacham - Head of the Republican Party
Matthew Milam- First person to make a spray-tan machine angry
Will Montana- Most likely to become an NBA basketball player
Joshua Moore- Most likely to say this quote: " "
Luke Morad - Most likely to start the over-the-shoulder backpack trend again
Luke Mryncza - Stay-at-home dad
James Murff - Vandy Fan
Stokes Myers - No Excuse Model
Elliott Nahmias - Alpaca Breeder
Jed Neal - Magister Neal
Norris Orndorff- Video game producer
Burke Owens - Most likely to join biker gang
Frank Perazzini - Pro Wrestler
Patrick Pergande - Most likely to call everyone by their Latin names in 30 years
Thomas Peterson - Most likely to stash ketchup packets in his backpack
Jackson Pickett - Most likely to live at a gym
Don Pierce - Next Mr. Quinn
Carson Potter - Most likely to become an *Anime* author
John Powers - Most likely to become a viral YouTube dancer
Mark Pyburn - Most likely to be on *The Bachelor*
Will Renkis- Bear enthusiast
Carter Reynolds - Pro photoshopper
Zach Ricciardelli - Pro Choreographer
Joseph Robertson- Most likely to get into the fidget spinner industry
William Rogers - Most likely to work at Brooks Brothers
Austin Roth - International spy
Cooper Rzasnicki- Hairstylist
Rasheed Sarieh - Most likely to sucSHEED
Max Scheele - Professional spoon collector
Bode Segers - Barkley Marathon Record Holder
Mason Skeeters - Most likely to become the head of the Secret Service
Colin Smith- Head of the Democratic Party
Owen Smith - Most likely to become a call-in radio host
Brody Snell - Most likely to be model for *Roller Backpack Magazine*
Max Speers - Future Greg from East Coast Dyes
Michael Spellman - Most likely to steal a balloon on free balloon day just to say he's a criminal
Jack Spivey - Most likely to be next Smokey
Connor Steanson - Most likely to be the Stunt Double for Caillou
Jake Steigelfest - Most likely to break a third arm
Colin Tang - Penguin specialist
Thomas Tatro - Most likely to model for Michigan University apparel
Kyle Tavi- Most likely to pick a fight with Floyd Mayweather
Ashton Terrell - Wedding model
Zach Thomas - NBA Basketball Manager
Stanford Thombs - Most likely to go to BA
Austin Vaughan - Most likely to create a hair conditioner line
Ross Walker - Most likely to never take his UK sweatshirt off
Scott Wallace - *Minecraft* pro
Bo Wilbanks - Most likely to be an ESPN sportscaster
Patrick Wilk - Most likely to wear boots to sleep
Evan Williams - Next most interesting man in the world
Drew Wilson - Most likely to design Nike socks
Jason Zhu - professional saxophonist

To the Class of 2021,

I still remember my very first day of MBA. We stood in Massey for the first time, completely oblivious that we were a blink away from being a band of brothers. But a blink can change your life if you see it for what it is and use it correctly. Eyes closed. We ran through the fire. Inscrutable grammar quizzes, impossible IPS tests, and memory-testing poetry recitations were shoved in my face at the very start of 7th grade. I thought I couldn't handle it. But in my somber beginning, I completely missed our class forming and taking on a life of its own. All of us students helped each other, and quarter by quarter, semester by semester we grew together. Soon we were progressing through the academic rigor with ease, and we had broken through the barrier of acquaintance that kept us from being more than classmates. And this is where the class of 2021 became alive. Then 8th grade came. Our class was held together by the flesh and blood of community, but through the 8th grade year, we built our bones, our skeleton. That strong foundation allowed for friendships to develop and build bonds between kids who might normally never talk together. We gained priceless memories that will be recounted for the rest of our lives. We gave each other courage to pursue our ambitions. Together we have changed and solidified. The year isn't over yet, but we can almost see the light.

Eyes open. We made it. You all are all my friends, classmates, and brothers. I know it seems like a blessing to get one step closer to the top of the Hill, but I promise one day you're going to look back and realize you wish you could go back to smirk in one more session of 'Just Talk.' I love you all, and I can't wait to move forward together on the Hill.

-Thomas McRae

Honest Abe

Dear Abe,

My phone fell out of my pocket on the Superman roller coaster at Six Flags during the Atlanta Trip. I don't know how to find it. Can you give me any advice about how to get it back?

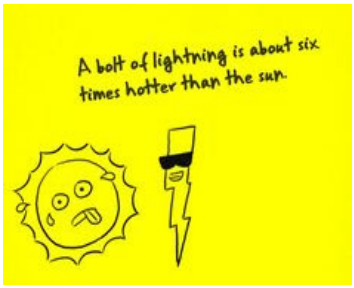
Sincerely,
Phoneless and Stressed

Dear Phoneless and Stressed,

The fact that you (or worse, your parents) have not heard about some hapless Six Flags tourist suffering a major concussion after being struck by a rogue phone falling out of the sky is a majorly good sign. Even if you could find it, I suspect at this point it would not be very useful for calling, texting, or anything else for that matter. It is probably in smithereens. Congratulations and condolences. Get a new phone.

Sincerely,

Honest Abe - Aka William Rogers



Betcha Didn't Know

(Facts that the average person might not know)

By William Curley

1) The actual word, "Tennessee" comes from the Cherokee Native American word, "Tana-see," which means, "The Meeting."
2) Coca-Cola would be green if coloring wasn't added to it.
3) During Teddy Roosevelt's 1907 visit to Tennessee, he was served Maxwell House coffee and coined the phrase, "Good 'til the last drop."
4)There are more possible iterations of a game of chess than there are atoms in the known universe.
5) The first mini-golf course was located in Chattanooga.
6) Nashville law states that persons operating scooters, inline skates, or roller skates shall operate such scooters and skates in a single file.

7). In 1386 a pig in France was executed by public hanging for the murder of a child.
8) The largest snowflake ever recorded reportedly measured 15 inches across.
9)The katzenklavier ("cat piano") was a musical instrument made out of cats. Designed by 17th-century German scholar Athanasius Kircher, it consisted of a row of caged cats with different voice pitches, who could be "played" by a keyboardist driving nails into their tails.
10) Light doesn't necessarily travel at the speed of light. The slowest speed at which light has ever been recorded is 38 mph.

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The staff and sponsors of Top of the Hill would like to thank the MBA Mothers and Fathers Clubs for their generous support this year!

The Gulch vs. 12 South

By Thomas Peterson

The Gulch vs. 12 South. Which reigns supreme? That is the question. Fifteen years ago, not many people were talking about either of these areas. They were desolate, filled with older homes or commercial trains, and associated with high crime. No more. The Nashville of 2017 makes this area a pretty epic battle of food and shopping hotspots. I will focus on the food as I know, well less about the shopping.

The Gulch is adjacent to downtown Nashville and Music Row, which makes it a prime location for people visiting Nashville for work or to attend a conference at the Music City Center. The Gulch is home to lots of fine dining, including the M Street group of restaurants: Virago, Whiskey Kitchen, Saint Anejo, Kayne Prime, and Moto, which is home to blueberry lasagna, maybe one of the best meals I have ever had in my life. This upscale dining is for the 21-and-over demographic. More upscale (aka, expensive) dining is just a few blocks away at 404 Kitchen, which is housed in a (get this) former shipping container! This tiny restaurant usually requires reservations several weeks in advance because there are so few seats (it is a shipping container). The team at 404 is about to relocate to a bigger kitchen and dining space later this year however, when they take over the space currently held by Watermark across the street. Throw in Prima, which features "New American" cuisine, and Adele's, which has a fantastic outdoor patio in the Spring and Summer, and the Gulch has a lot fine dining options.

If casual dining is what you are wishing for, the Gulch has a few good options. Biscuit Love, the former Nashville food truck staple, has a restaurant in the Gulch that frequently has a line out the door for breakfast. Fried biscuits, French toast biscuits and burger biscuits-there is a lot to love here. And a few steps down the street is Burger Republic, serving some of the best burgers and shakes in Nashville. If you have overindulged on all of the outstanding food, the Gulch offers a couple of options to help you burn it off, including Pure Barre and Barry's Boot Camp, which promises to transform your bod with a grueling hour of cardio and weights.

Just a few blocks away, the 12 South neighborhood is a testimonial to the renewal that Nashville has experienced in the last five years. Whole blocks have been transformed into high-end retail stores and even more amazing restaurants. There are some neighborhood favorites that have been in the area for awhile, including Mafiaoza's, which serves up great pizza, 12 South Taproom, Frothy Monkey and Burger Up. But wait, there's more. Edley's Barbeque and Urban Grub are great restaurants, along with Bartaco and Taqueria Del Sol, which both feature great, authentic, and casual Mexican food options. If you have a yearning for dessert, 12 South is a great place to go. Jeni's Ice Cream and Sprinkles Cupcakes are within a couple of blocks of each other. And if your sweet tooth strikes at midnight, Sprinkles has you covered. Their cupcake ATM dispenses cookies and cupcakes 24/7. 12 South also features Sevier Park, a beautiful green space with play areas and basketball courts for children and adults. On a hot Nashville summer day, a stroll through Sevier Park while enjoying a popsicle from Las Paletas across the street, is a great way to enjoy the afternoon.

It's a close call, but in this epic battle, I give the slight edge to 12 South. It's a great place to eat, play, walk around and hang out. But both of these are fun and have lots to do, eat and see. They demonstrate why it is great to live in Nashville, and you should definitely check them both out.

Nashville Good Eats

By Will Coulthard

In this article, I will outline four places that I believe have very good food, but please keep in mind that this is an opinion article. However, if you enjoy good food at a good restaurant, our opinions shall somewhat align.

The Pharmacy: This fine establishment has been a hot spot for a couple years now. Since it's inception in 2011, The Pharmacy has had excellent sodas and phenomenal burgers. It's amazing buns and made-in-house toppings put it above the other burger joints. Aside from the food, their bright atmosphere welcomes all Nashvillians to their exquisite outdoor patio where you will find it hard to leave.

The Grilled Cheeserie: After much success with the food-truck, The Grilled Cheeserie finally opened its own brick and mortar on Belmont. If you have been to the food truck, you know what's up: creamy cheese, perfectly cooked bread, and now awesome milkshakes. If you have not been to the food truck, you should definitely check this out.

Fido: Though this is more of a coffee shop/cafe, Fido, which is also situated in the Belmont area, brews some of the best coffee around, and serves great food and pastries. Though not as popular as places like Noshville, the quality of its food makes up for its lack of good service.

Burger Up: This place is an impeccable burger joint right on 12 South, and has many innovative burgers mixed with a very low-key environment and great service. The fries are to die for, along with the appetizers, especially the fried pickles. This restaurant is truly one of Nashville's finest.

Double Dogs: With the Preds' postseason in full swing, a great place to be with fellow fans to watch the game is Double Dogs, a hot dog place with so much more! Aside from their hot dogs, they have a huge bowl of nachos served to you in a dog bowl, impressive burgers, and fries to die for. Not to mention, the place has seemingly hundreds of televisions to watch any and every sporting event going on.

Exciting Yet Again

By Mauro Mastrapasqua

(WARNING: Article Contains Spoilers)

Baby Groot in Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 was an exciting film! The director struck the perfect balance between intense action and comic relief, resulting in one of Marvel's most interesting concepts. In the opening scene, the audience sees the Guardians battling a big alien blob through the eyes of baby Groot dancing in oblivion to iconic "Mr. Blue Sky" by Electric Light Orchestra, while an intense battle is waged around him. This scene alone encompasses the true reason why the *Guardians of the Galaxy* series has been such a wild success: It contains so many good qualities that there is a little something for everyone to like. This movie is a quality film for the whole family. Unfortunately, I guess I have to criticize it a little, but, I'll make it quick.

The movie was surprisingly long. There are essentially three stories going on at a time when the Guardians are split up, but of course they meet up in the end. I think they had a few too many things happening in the plot for the audience to be 100% captivated for the whole movie, which is every movie's goal. The film also peaked in the first five minutes with an awesome opening scene (although the rest of the movie wasn't bad). Due to the length of the film, it was hard to stay focused. When each of the three stories were in their "explanation phases," there was too much dialogue. But this problem could have been solved if the movie's makers had designed all the Guardians' stories to be intertwined, instead of splitting them up and making the movie harder to follow and less convincing. When the plot got dull, they would simply add a little bit of suspense and just follow a different group of characters.

Now that the critique is finished, know that there are countless solid qualities possessed by the film. The whole movie turns on Star Lord's (Chris Pratt) quest for his father. During this search, Star Lord learns he has had godly powers all his life when he thought he was just an average human. He is about to betray the Guardians and follow in his father's footsteps right before he realizes that his father killed his mother. In a rage, he attempts to kill his father, which triggers the movie's main battle scene. Through this battle, Star Lord becomes 100% human not only by killing his father, but also by feeling love and companionship for his fellow Guardians that only a true human could feel. If there was one phrase that I would choose to describe this movie, I'd pick "music makes the movie." I didn't think Star Lord's mix tape could get any better than his first one, but he topped it in the first five minutes alone with "Mr. Blue Sky." And there are many more.

I cannot complete this review without mentioning Groot. He is by far the best character in the movie, because he is responsible for more than 90% of the film's comic relief. It's hard to think of Marvel and *Guardians of the Galaxy* without thinking of baby Groot. He is a talking six inch tree, which can understandably seem underwhelming, but Groot makes the movie seem more real, and his antics are in stark contrast to the rigorous challenges faced by the Guardians.

This film is worth a trip to the theater. Most of the movie is "edge of your seat" excitement, and it reaches heights of humor that are sure to make you laugh out loud.

Get Out: The Review

By Andrew McCloud

Get Out is a thriller with an interesting plot line. The story begins with Chris, an African- American man, and Rose, a white woman. They are in a wonderful relationship, and Chris is about to meet Rose's parents. She assures them that they are not racist, yet Chris has his doubts. They make the trip there, and things are already out of the ordinary. As they are riding in a car they hit a deer. The police are called, and they show up to the scene asking for Chris' license and registration even though the cop has been told that Rose was the driver many times. After this encounter, Chris begins to feel even more uncomfortable. He meets her family and thinks they act a little out of the ordinary. For example, when he tries to smoke, Rose's mom, Missy the psychiatrist, asks him if she can help cure his addiction through hypnotism. He refuses but she keeps badgering him, and she ultimately goes through with doing it, even though he didn't say she could. Although this is unusual behavior, Chris decides to ignore it. Chris begins to feel more uncomfortable when he finds out that all the servants are African American and are serving an all white family. He also notices that the servants have no emotion and seem almost robotic. Rose's brother eventually comes into the mix, and he makes Chris feel scared because of his intimidating personality and his occasional abuse of alcohol.

As time goes on there is a celebration at the family's house and many people show up. Most of them are white, and one of them is African-American. This one man acts similarly to the servants (robotically). Chris tries to take a picture of him to send to a friend and accidentally left the flash on. As the camera flashes the man wigs out and attacks Chris, which he later blames on his epilepsy. He later is found out to have been a man that had gone missing and had never been found. After this, Chris finds pictures of Rose with all of the servants, but they look different, less robotic. He pieces together the puzzle and finds out that all the servants had been lured to the house. After this discovery Chris decides to leave, but leaving becomes more and more difficult and the family acts more and more strangely. The family prevents him from leaving and tries to make him one of their servants. However, he escapes and is taken home by his friend.

Get Out was a great and scary movie that is positively reviewed by most.

Happy Summer from the TOH Staff!

Wrestlemania 2017

By James Kinard

On April 2, 2017 at Camping World Stadium in Orlando, WWE had its thirty-third *Wrestlemania*. This annual event is in the new year for WWE because it sets the stage for the upcoming year. The 2017 *Wrestlemania* was called "The Ultimate Thrill Ride," which was hosted by The New Day, for a good reason. The event featured many brand name superstars like John Cena, Triple H, and Randy Orton.

Every Championship belt was challenged at *Wrestlemania*. The U.S. Champion Chris Jericho was defeated by Kevin Owens, making him the new U.S. Champion. The Intercontinental Champion Dean Ambrose kept his title after defeating Baron Corbin. The Hardy Boyz won a Fatal Four Way Ladder Match to win the Raw Tag Team Championship. Randy Orton defeated Bray Wyatt to win the WWE Championship. Naomi defeated Alexa Bliss, Natalya, Carmella, Becky Lynch and Mickie James to win the Smack Down Women's Championship. WWE Cruiserweight Champion Neville defeated Austin Aries. Brock Lesnar defeated the Universal Champion Goldberg to win the Universal Championship. Not only were there belt matches but also specials.

This year's *Wrestlemania* was very special for many reasons. First, a *Wrestlemania* first, NFL Star tight end for the New England Patriots, Rob Gronkowski, helped Mojo Rawley win the 4th annual Andre the Giant Memorial Battle Royal-last man in the ring. Also, AJ Styles defeated Shane McMahon. John Cena and Nikki Bella defeated Miz & Maryse, and then John Cena asked Nikki to marry him, in which she replied yes. Seth Rollins defeated Triple H in a Non-Sanctioned Match-two men enter but one leaves by his own power. Last and most important, Roman Reigns defeated The Undertaker in the dead man's last match. This match was most important because The Undertaker had the record of 31-1 in *Wrestlemania* matches, losing only to Brock Lesnar. With this loss, he now has a record of 31-2. The Undertaker was known for surviving everything at *Wrestlemania* and was put down after three F-Fives in Lesnar's finisher. In the match, Roman Reigns landed five superman punches and five spears. The Undertaker landed a thrill ride, a choke slam, a tombstone pile-driver, and a hell's gate. Both of them used steel chairs, and Reign's even destroyed the Spanish announcers' table! But after three consecutive spears and a superman punch, Roman finished the dead man.

This *Wrestlemania* will be talked about for a long time. With Gronk, the defeat and retirement of The Undertaker, and displaced establishment, this year in WWE is shaping up to be a wild one.

SPORTS

Titans Preview

By Will Coulthard

Adoree' Jackson Picked by the Titans

As soon as the Titans' playoff hopes were busted last year with a loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars, the Titans' organization and fan base began looking toward free agency, the draft, and the next season. After improving from a 3-13 team to a 9-7 team, this offseason the Titans were looking for the final pieces to get them in the playoffs. They added Super Bowl veteran cornerback Logan Ryan and pass-rushing safety Jonathan Cyprien to bolster their lackluster secondary. And to give Marcus Mariota that star target who the Titans so desperately needed, with the fifth pick, the Titans selected wide receiver Corey Davis from Western Michigan. The Titans also added more depth at receiver and tight end with Taywan Taylor and Jannu Smith. To add more depth to their secondary, the Titans selected Adoree' Jackson, who will also help in the return game after losing Marc Mariani. With the release of the 2017-2018 schedule, things are looking up for the Titans; they are only facing five playoff teams, including division rivals Houston Texans. According to Mr. Russ' advisory, the Titans should be approximately 11-5 this year. My prediction, because they are the Titans, and lose that one horrible game every year, is 10-6, which still should get us into the playoffs in the AFC South.

NBA PLAYOFFS

By Scott Wallace

There has been lots of excitement and hype surrounding the NBA Playoffs. The Eastern Conference's first round proceeded with no surprises, as all of the higher seeds won their series. The Boston Celtics had a sluggish start against the Chicago Bulls, losing the first two games of the series at home. Isaiah Thomas was not on top

of his game after the tragic death of his 22-year-old sister, Chyna Thomas, who was killed in a car accident that saddened the entire NBA community. Thomas' teammates comforted him as he cried during warm-ups and in the locker room, and he seemed to rebound in Game 3. The Celtics went on to win the next four in easy fashion against a Bulls team that looks confused and not sure what to do for next year.

The Washington Wizards beat the Atlanta Hawks in six games with the help of John Wall, who was eager to show the doubters that he belongs in the Playoffs, scoring 42 points in Game 6 to clinch the series. The Toronto Raptors took on the young Milwaukee Bucks in a very intriguing matchup that the Bucks could have won. Similar to John Wall, Giannis Antetokounmpo came into the Playoffs trying to prove himself. Giannis put up big numbers, but could not quite carry the team to the second round mainly because of the Raptors' Demar Derozan and his incredible, underrated mid-range game. The Cavaliers swept the Indiana Pacers in a series with four very close games. The Cavs won every game by six or fewer points in a very fun series to watch. LeBron James got in his playoff mentality and absolutely dominated the Pacers with his strength to drive to the basket. James also led the Cavs in a historic comeback win when they were down by as much as 25 points in Game 3. The Western Conference First Round was also exciting, with multiple very close series. The Golden State Warriors were an exception though. After Damian Lillard said that the Trail Blazers would win in 6, the Warriors made him look like a fool. Steph Curry led the team to a 4-0 sweep with help from Klay Thompson, Draymond Green, and an injured Kevin Durant. The Utah Jazz outlasted the LA Clippers in seven games with help from Joe Johnson who hit a buzzer beater early in the series, and Gordon Hayward who had some very consistent play. The Houston Rockets took out Russell Westbrook and the Russell Westbrooks . . . I mean, the OKC Thunder, in six. Nene and James Harden put an end to the historic season from Westbrook recording the most triple-doubles in a season with 43. The San Antonio Spurs took care of the gritty Grizzlies in a series that was tied up at two each until Kawhi Leonard took over and ended the madness. Mike Conley was impressive in the series, though, and tried to prove he was worth the money the Grizzlies spent on him. As of now, the Boston Celtics are up 3-2 against the Washington Wizards who are putting up a good fight. The Cavaliers, led by Lebron James, have already taken care of the Raptors in a 4-0 blowout series for the Cavs who are once again in the Eastern Conference Finals. The Warriors swept the Utah Jazz very comfortably and just might win it all. The Dub Nation is 8-0 so far in the Playoffs and they look better than ever. The Spurs are now up 3-2 against a Rockets team without Nene, who has become a valuable asset to the team. The favorite to win it all is, of course, the Warriors, but the Cavaliers have a great chance at a repeat with their passion and drive to win. The Celtics could pull off an upset on the Cavs as well and the Spurs could be a tough matchup for this confident Warriors team.

I predict that the Cleveland Cavaliers will take home another championship that is led by a historic performance from LeBron James in the Finals against the Warriors, who will once again choke. Now it's your turn. Who do you think is going to win it all?

The 1st Round of the NHL Playoffs 2017

By Bo Wilbanks

The NHL Playoffs were off to a furious start once the first round was complete. The games have yet to disappoint and are very hard not to watch. The first matchup I will analyze is the Capitals vs. the Maple Leafs. The Maple Leafs came

in with their three superstar rookies, William Nylander, Mitch Marner, and Auston Matthews, facing off against Alex Ovechkin and the Washington Capitals. The theme of the series was "Overtime," as five of the six games went into extra time. The Capitals ended it with a clutch overtime goal by Marcus Johansson, which allowed the Capitals to prevail 4-2 in the series. The next matchup was former Predator Seth Jones and the Columbus Blue Jackets against Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin, and Patric Hornqvist and the Pittsburgh Penguins. Even though missing starting goalie Matt Murray, backup Marc-Andre Fleury played phenomenally as the Pens dominated and took the series 4-1. Rookie Jake Guentzel showed that he belongs, leading the league in playoff goals after the first round for Pittsburgh. The next matchup was Tuukka Rask and the Boston Bruins facing Bobby Ryan, Erik Karlsson and the Senators. It was a brutal series, but the Ottawa Senators prevailed in an OT thriller, scored by Clarke MacArthur, to clinch the series 4-2. The next matchup was Henrik Lundqvist and the New York Rangers taking on Carey Price and Shea Weber of the Montreal Canadiens. This series was great and went to Game 6, but the experienced Rangers prevailed, winning 4-2 and moving on to the 2nd round.

Though the Eastern Conference's first round was spectacular, the Western Conference also had some interesting series. The underestimated Nashville Predators took on the evil Chicago Blackhawks and swept them. The series was completely dominated by the Preds, giving the Hawks no chance to win. Pekka Rinne finished with two shutouts and three goals allowed, which is unheard of considering all the firepower Chicago has, including Patrick Kane, Jonathan Toews, and Artemi Panarin. Nashville's defense is also a big reason for the sweep with great play from Roman Josi, PK Subban, Ryan Ellis, and Mattias Ekholm. Another instant classic was Connor McDavid and the Edmonton Oilers, also known as McDaddy, McJesus, or The Chosen One (further proving Edmonton's love for hockey), as they took on the San Jose Sharks, who are also the reigning Western Conference champions. The series was constantly back and forth with Sharks forward Joe Pavelski playing some of his best hockey, but the Oilers won the series behind faster and younger players. Another domination was the Anaheim Ducks sweeping the Calgary Flames in one of the most boring, underwhelming series of all time. Veterans Ryan Getzlaf, Corey Perry, and Cam Fowler manhandled the young Flames, who are just a couple of years away from greatness. The St. Louis Blues also won their series 4-1 against the Minnesota Wild. The Blues played their best hockey of the season, especially goalie Jake Allen. Though the Wild showed a late surge, the Blues were just straight up better. Vladimir Tarasenko made his case as the best in the NHL, along with captain Alex Pietrangelo. Overall, the first round was good, but it is just going get better from here.

***At press time, the Nashville Predators are heading to the Stanley Cup Playoffs after beating the Anaheim Ducks - 4-2 in the series. Go Preds!!!**

A-Team Baseball

By Dan Gaw

The junior school A baseball squad had an outstanding year. From the exquisite throwing from Coach Pops, treacherous auxiliary stations with Coach Story, and the fearless leadership of Coach Golenor the team had great season .The squad consisted of Nasir Cook, Ethan Dallas, Max Dillion, Swope Fleming, Daniel Gaw, Charlie Hanson, Jack Kim, Dustin Lee, Kinton Lewis, Bennett Maccurdy, Josh Moore, Grayson Morgan, Billy Morris, Mark, Pyburn, Zach Thomas, and Austin Vaughan. The team had a modest record of 9 and 5, struggling through many injuries early in the year, with Dustin

Lee injuring his arm and hamstring and Austin Vaughan getting surgery on his arm. Even though we lost Dustin's powerhouse hitting and Austin's solid strikes, we fought throw making it all the way to the semi-finals in the HVAC. Although the squad started off the year with a tough loss 5-2 to Nashville Catholic, they came back gave USN a butt-kicking loss of 16-7. Going into the meat of the season, it was hard for the Big Red to gain momentum because of the constant cancellations of games. Even though we struggled to get momentum, we still got some quality wins over Goodpasture 3-2, Ensworth 14-1, and BA 3-2. Nearing the end of the season the Big Red baseballers started to gain some traction with four straight wins over Franklin Road Academy 12-0, Battle Ground Academy 4-2, forfeit by Grace Christian Academy, and a 6-4 win over Donelson Christian Academy.

Going into the tournament the Big Red hoped to win but fell short 6-9 to Goodpasture, who went on to win the HVAC.

Overall, the Junior School A baseball squad had a successful season, and, hopefully, the seventh graders will avenge us next year.

B Team Baseball

By William Haggerty

The Jubilant Microbe B Baseball Team

The Microbe B-Team Bombers had a solid season this year, with a record of 8-4. They started off with a tough loss in its season opener against CPA. After an early 2-0 lead for MBA, the Lions regained their footing and earned an 8-3 win. The Big Red showed some positive signs in pitching and hitting; Nicky Bennett opened the game and in three innings threw five strikeouts and allowed only one hit. Khol Hedgepath came in for two innings and threw three strikeouts. Peyton Phillips closed out with two innings and two strikeouts. Kayman Cooke hit two singles, stole a base, and scored a run. William "Yellerman" Holleman earned a hit, Carson Mire hit a double, and Mason "Chainsaw" Jablonski earned a single on a fielder's choice. The next game against Brentwood Middle was a close one, but in the end BMS took the win. The Big Red earned its first two wins in a double-header against Nashville Catholic. Highlights include: singles by Ingram Hitt and William Holleman, two singles by Peyton Phillips, and a dramatic game-winning two RBI single by Kayman Cooke. The pitching was stellar: Ingram Hitt threw three strikeouts in three innings, and Coleman Roddey made his debut after a broken arm and threw three innings with only two hits. The Big Red then went on a winning streak of four games, including a 12-1 win against Ensworth. The team consisted of Coach Malone and Coach Rader, as well as sixteen players: Arthur Bennett (1st) and Nicky Bennett (pitcher, 3rd), Simon Buenahora (3rd), Kayman Cooke (CF), Bert Echols (2nd and SS), Hall Griffith (RF), Khol Hedgepath (1st), Ingram Hitt (2nd, SS, pitcher), William Holleman (2nd, SS), William Hagerty (RF), Robert Holliday (catcher), Mason Jablonski (LF), Wren Jacobs (catcher), Carson Mire (CF), Peyton Phillips (2nd, pitcher), and last but not least Coleman Roddey (3rd, SS, 2nd, pitcher). The Big Red B-Team's season was short and sweet, with a third of the total games canceled.

Junior School Golf in Full Swing

By Walker Green

The 2017 Junior School Golf Team Core

Junior School golf had a solid season this spring, with two teams participating. The A team consisted of Bradford Cummins, Joe Robertson, Reid Smith, Jack Manning, Flynn McRae, Cash Hendon, Max Hastings, Cummings Levi, Jack Spivey, and Carson Hensler. They were coached by Coach Kelly. These players participated in many matches, including Brentwood Middle School, Mt. Juliet Middle School, Grassland, and West Wilson Middle School, all of which they won. The A team has also had some tough and challenging loses to Ensworth. The team's skill and determination produced a successful season for the players and the coach.

Team B consisted of Wesley Carlton, Yadev Surati, William Cook, Cooper Rzasnicki, Bo Wilbanks, Max Bertani, Cabe Tachek, and Walker Green. Coach Carlton coached the B team. "One of the objectives for this golf team is to have fun and improve their play," said Coach Carlton. "I also would like to see the players grow with confidence," he continued. It certainly seems that the B team improved with every swing of the club.

Although the spring golf season has finished, players on both teams demonstrated the traits of an MBA man with their hard work and gentlemanly behavior. They represented MBA on the course and off the course. And as the last putt falls into the hole, the junior golf season ends until next fall. As always gentlemen: Roll Red, Roll!

7th Grade Lacrosse

By Jackson Francis

The 7th grade lacrosse season was definitely one to remember. There were lots of ups and downs. The players on the team were as follows: Bix Beavers, Gaits Buntin, Jack Cheek, Parker Davis, John Dayani, Otis Ditenhafer, Avery Estopinal, Jackson Francis, Charlie Graves, Gene Herman, Pierce Hill, Jacob Huizinga, Cabot Hyde, Jack Keller, Andrew Lentchner, Larson Looney, Ben McSween, Henry Neck, Chuma Offodile, Jack Pacconi, Bryce Perkerson, Jack Ryan, Denton Sensing, Adam Shealy, and John Tarquinio. Then the team was lead by our excellent coaches: Coach Brown, Coach Carlini, and Coach Ferri. The season started off with a bang, winning 9-4 against JT Moore. Then the team ended up losing a close game to Woodland Middle 4-3 in double overtime. We quickly bounced back to defeat USN. The momentum that we had at 2-1 seemed to go down from this point on. We lost a hard fought game 12-5 to Brentwood Middle School, and yet another one when we played Ensworth. It was nail-bitingly tight throughout the entire game until Ensworth pulled away in the last two minutes of the game, winning 7-5. Next we had to play the toughest game of the season against a very good Memphis University School. Even though the team lost, we played with intensity and battled to the end but ended up losing 7-2. After this game we faced Woodland Middle again, and the team unfortunately lost. At this point in the season the team's record stands at 2-5. After losing to Woodland for the second time, the team was determined to not lose again and turn this season into a winning season with just four games left to go. Next on the schedule was Harding Academy. With a tenacious attitude the team went out and conquered Harding. The win proved to us that we could do it. After this exciting win, the team went up against Nashville Catholic, and in a rigorous battle, we ended up victorious. After this the team's spirits were up, and we were gaining momentum. Then the team had to play Grassland-a tough game. The game came down to the final seconds where Bix Beavers scored a buzzer-beater goal to win the game. Coming up was the last game of the season, and the team stood at 5-5. Nothing was going to hold the team back from accomplishing their goal. The team played Valor. The game was tough and hard fought, and we finished with a W. After this victory, the team was energized by achieving their goal. The team went on a four game win streak to clinch a 6-5 season record. This season had a lot of excitements. Playing with my classmates was extremely fun, and I look forward to next season. I can definitely say this was a season to remember.

The 8th Grade Lacrosse Team

By Charlie Mason

The eighth grade lacrosse team has a had an incredible year, finishing the season with a whopping nineteen wins and one loss. The team played a mix of teams from Nashville and out of town. Over the season the team played MUS, Christian Brothers, USN, Brentwood, Boyd Buchanan, Collierville, The Irish, Ensworth, Grassland, and Woodland, not including the Mccallie Tournament at the end of the season. The team faced Memphis University School twice and beat them both times. The team played one of its best games against Boyd Buchanan, a team from out of town. The captains of the team included Luke Mryncza, Stokes Myers, Trent Lamar, Stanford Thombs, and assistant captains, Ramsey Cole and Max Speers.

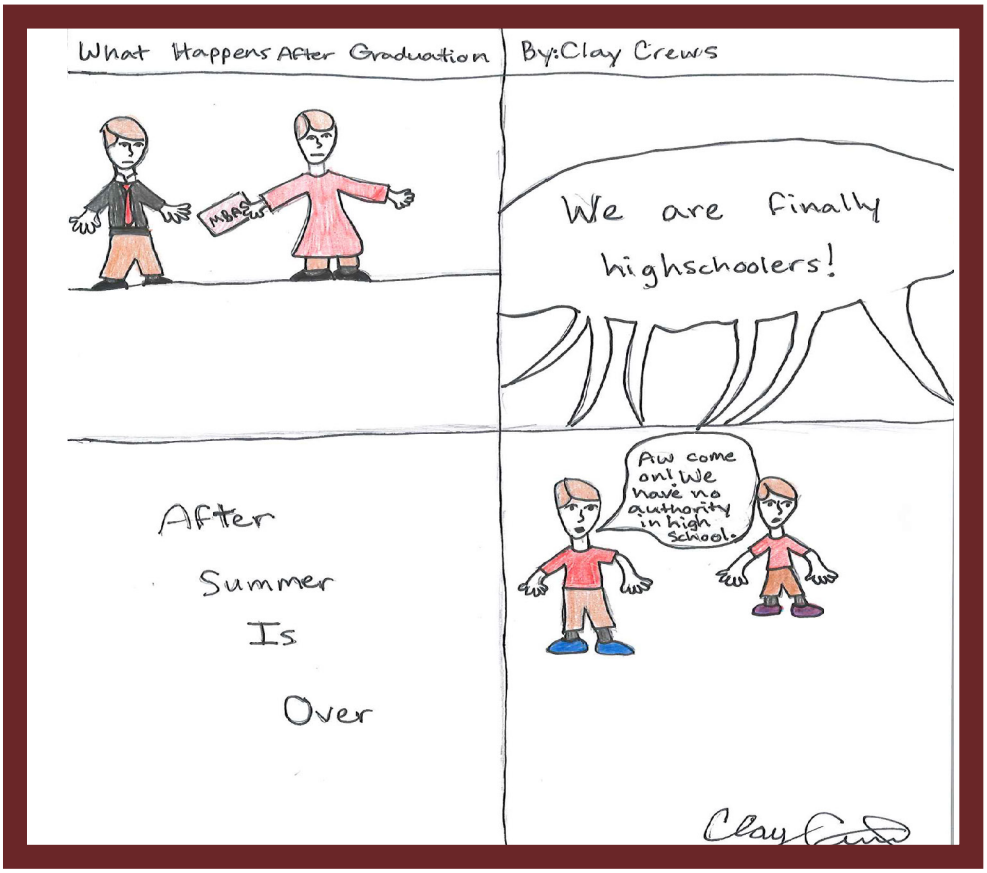
The 2017 Eighth-Grade Lacrosse Team

The top scorers for the team included Stokes Myers, Max Speers, Luke Mryncza, Charlie Mason, and Stanford Thombs. The top assisters included Max Speers, Stokes Myers, Luke Mryncza, Charlie Mason, and Frank Bass. The person with the most ground balls, leading the team by a large margin, was Trent Lamar. The team's success had to do with it's incredible depth. Each of the teams players improved during the year, specifically the defense. The defense included, John Crawford, Zak Herbstreit, Foster Edwards, and Matthew Fox. Each of these players had never played defense before. The coaches this year were head coach,

Coach Cooper, and assistant coaches Pollock and McWhirter.

The finale of the season was the McCallie Tournament at McCallie. We woke up early and left the school at 7:00 am.. We arrived and played our first game against "Cak." The Big Red then beat Jr. Longhorns, who forfeited due to a fight that broke out between two players.) The next game was against McCallie which MBA won, putting us in the semi-finals. In the Semi-finals we played the Christian Brothers A Team. It was a tough fight but the team pulled through and won taking us to the championship. In the championship, the Big Red eighth-grade lacrosse team played the Senior Longhorns. They were a very talented team from Atlanta, and it was a tough loss.

Overall, the team had an incredible season and hopes to have another one for the rising eighth-graders next year.



A Historic Crew Season

By Mauro Mastrapasqua

Yet again I am back with another Crew update. This season was marked by the junior school teams' focus and synchrony in the boat. Though we practiced together, the seventh and eighth graders were split up into different boats. Most of the time Coach Calico took the eighth grade boat, and Coach Valentine and Coach Onstott took the seventh grade boat, but sometimes Coach Kesor or Coach Vigors would help us out. We practiced and raced at the Commodore Yacht Club on the Cumberland River. After a tough first loss, all of our RIGORous practice (no pun intended) was in preparation for the final Baylor regatta.

Early on May 6, the eighth grade team members traveled down to Chattanooga with the high school. As first year rowers, we are in the "novice" category, so we raced ninth and a few tenth graders. Our boat was the only MBA boat that won first place that day, and we beat the McCallie boat by more than twenty seconds. This race made history because we were the first junior school boat to ever win a race in all eight years of the program's existence. Because everyone in the boat won the regatta and beat McCallie in a race, we all met the requirement to receive a high school letter. This impressive win is reflective of the work that the team put in throughout the season.

The beauty of Crew is how rewarding it is when a race is finished. In the words of Coach Calico, "Crew is the ultimate team sport," because one bad stroke will not only not contribute to the boat, it will hurt the boat. The consequence of letting our whole boat down for taking just one stroke off kept us motivated and powerful in practice. Boats are forced to act as a single unit, no matter how hard or different each of our erg (rowing machine) scores are. Like running, rowing requires just as much if not more mental strength because each team members must row identically to the other seven rowers in the boat while giving 100% physical effort. The junior school team worked with these ideas in mind, which resulted in a successful season this spring.

Attention, rising 8th graders! The Top of the Hill is looking for editors and writers for next year's newspaper. Contact Mrs. Roberts or Mrs. Overton if interested.

Junior School Track and Field

By Kyle Tavi

The junior school track and field team had a great season. All athletes were divided into three groups upon arrival at the track: sprinters, long distance, and throwers. Eventually, groups for hurdles, high jump, long jump, and pole vault would be added as well. The sprinters practice every day to perfect their speed for short distance running. Long distance went on long runs every day, usually around three miles, in order to acquire the stamina needed for the longer events. The throwers worked every day to improve their strength and form for the discus and shot put. MBA held on in close second place scores to Brentwood Academy at the Highland Games early in the season. Other times, we were edged out to third by Ensworth, but every time we ran and threw with the determination that is no less than expected on the Hill. The final meet MBA participated in was the HVAC championship, which took place at MBA. In that meet, we came in a not perfect but respectable fourth place. Highlights included Bode Segers winning the 800 meter and 1600 meter races, as well as the 4 by 100 team, who finished in third with a season best performance. Throughout that tough, grueling season, the MBA Junior School Track and Field team experienced improvement in running, self confidence, and character. The team faced successes and failures, all of which helped the team in the long run (pun intended). Thank you, Coach Reynolds and Coach Cirillo, our long distance coaches, Coach Russell, Coach Daugherty, Coach Creamer, Coach Paolicchi, and Coach Hackney for this great season.

The 2017 Junior School Track and Field Team

The MBA Class of 2021

The sponsors of Top of the Hill would like to congratulate The Class of 2021 on their terrific year and wish them all the best during their tenure on the Hill.

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